

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LAND AND WATER
CONSERVATION FUND

JUNE 11, 1987.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JOHNSTON, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 84]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill, S. 84, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 84 is to increase the existing authorization ceiling for the Land and Water Conservation Fund from its current level of \$900 million to \$1 billion annually. The measure would also extend the authorization for 25 years through the year 2015.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Few programs in the area of natural resource protection and recreation have been as successful as the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It is the major funding source for Federal park and wildlands acquisition and is a major tool for land acquisition and recreation-related development for the States.

Since its inception in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has enabled States and local governments to acquire 2.8 million acres of recreation lands and waters. Almost \$3 billion in Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund moneys have been matched on a 50-50 basis by the State and local authorities. On the Federal side, almost 3 million acres have been acquired with appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and added

to the National Park, Forest, Wilderness and Wildlife Refuge Systems.

The recent report issued by the President's Commission on American's Outdoors contains numerous examples of the importance and need for the continuation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Commission's report also discusses several possible areas of change in the fund which the Commission felt would enhance its effectiveness and help meet an ever increasing demand for outdoor recreation opportunities.

While this measure does not address those issues, it does ensure that funding authorization for the program will continue while the recommendations of the President's Commission and others are considered by the Congress.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 84 was introduced by Senator Johnston on January 6, 1987. No hearings have been conducted in the Senate although the House has conducted hearings and has passed a measure, H.R. 1320, which contains a provision re-authorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund at its present level, \$900 million, for 25 years.

At a business meeting on June 3, 1987, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 84 favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on June 3, 1987, by unanimous vote of a quorum present recommends that the Senate pass S. 84, as described herein.

The rollcall vote on reporting the measure was 19 yeas, 0 nays as follows:

YEAS

Mr. Johnston
Mr. Bumpers
Mr. Ford
Mr. Metzenbaum
Mr. Melcher
Mr. Bradley
Mr. Bingaman
Mr. Wirth
Mr. Fowler
Mr. Conrad
Mr. McClure*
Mr. Hatfield
Mr. Weicker*
Mr. Domenici
Mr. Wallop
Mr. Murkowski*
Mr. Nickles*
Mr. Hecht
Mr. Evans

NAYS

*Indicates voted by proxy.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Congressional Budget Office estimate of the costs of this measure has been requested but was not received at the time the report was filed. When the report is available, the Chairman will request it to be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 84. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 84, as reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

On May 8, 1987, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources requested legislative reports from the Departments of Agriculture, Interior and the Office of Management and Budget setting forth executive views on S. 84. These reports had not been received at the time the report on S. 84 was filed. When the reports become available, the chairman will request that they be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill S. 84, as ordered reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT OF 1965

AN ACT To establish a land and water conservation fund to assist the States and Federal agencies in meeting present and future outdoor recreation demands and needs of the American people, and for other purposes.

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CERTAIN REVENUES PLACED IN SEPARATE FUND

SEC. 2. SEPARATE FUND. * * *

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(c)(1) OTHER REVENUES.—In addition to the sum of the revenues and collections estimated by the Secretary of the Interior to be covered into the fund pursuant to this section, as amended, there are authorized to be appropriated annually to the fund out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated such amounts

as are necessary to make the income of the fund not less than \$300,000,000 for [fiscal year 1977, and \$900,000,000 for fiscal year 1978 and for each fiscal year thereafter through September 30, 1989.] *fiscal year 1977; \$900,000,000 for fiscal year 1978 and each fiscal year thereafter through September 30, 1989; and \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 1990 and each fiscal year thereafter through September 30, 2015.*

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